

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
Norikazu ARAI et al. ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
)  
Continuation of Application ) Examiner: Unassigned  
No. 09/487,928 filed January 20, 2000 )  
)  
Filed: Herewith )  
)  
For: OPTICAL PICKUP APPARATUS, )  
RECORDING/REPRODUCING )  
APPARATUS PROVIDED WITH )  
THE OPTICAL PICKUP )  
APPARATUS, OPTICAL )  
ELEMENT, AND INFORMATION )  
RECORDING/REPRODUCING )  
METHOD )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application  
as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-136 and add new claims 137-149, as follows:

137. An optical pickup apparatus for recording and/or reproducing information  
for an optical information medium, comprising: